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PITSEA Letter to
Swale Housing Assn
re: RSL

DALE FARM HOUSING ASSOCIATION

Secretary
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Rachael Davies
Swale Housing Association
125 High Street
Surrey CR0 9XP

25 April 2008

Re: Registered Social Landlord

Dear Rachael,

I was talking to Joe Jones during his Public Inquiry and he suggested I write to you about Registered Social Landlords and our need to have a link up with one.

The DFHA is not a RSL but we have put in for planning permission to develop a caravan park at Terminus Road, Pitsea. This is a site proposed by John Prescott, while Deputy PM, as an alternative for families facing eviction from Dale Farm.

No need to say this application has been rejected by Basildon District Council and must now go to appeal. The Public Inquiry is set for 17 June.

We are being represented by Brian Cox, of South West Law. He says we need to link up with an existing RSL such as yourselves so that we can show the Inspector that the proposal to go ahead with this project is really viable.

To be viable we need to be in a position – with a partner such as Swale Housing Association/Amicus – to say that we have the possibility of applying for the necessary funding from the Housing Corporation.

At present the site at Pitsea is owned by English Partnership. So it would have to be leased or purchased from them.

Our chances of winning the appeal are not very good as there are so many objections. But without a link to an RSL we probably have no chance at all.

I think we would just need a letter saying that you are discussing the matter with us, with a view possibly to forming a partnership on this project. No more than that.

Obviously you'll want to talk this over. I will call you after you've had this letter.

I hope you can help us.

Yours sincerely,

Grattan Puxon
Secretary, DFHA